

Ethics Policy Training "If in doubt, don't."



AGENDA

- Workshop Purpose & Objectives
- Ethical Conduct
- City's Code of Ethics
- Ethics Acid Test

Workshop Purpose

- To understand the importance of ethics in professional life
- To promote and demand the highest standards of ethics from all employees
- To provide guidance on specific ethics topics

Objectives

- Explore ethical conduct expected
- Understand key expectations by all employees on the Ethics Policy
- Explain what supervisors should do to reinforce and encourage sound ethical behavior in others

Ethical Conduct Expected

- Acting at all times in the best interests of the community we serve
- Demonstrating excellence, integrity and responsibility in work we do
- Adhering to the laws of the United States, State of NC and the City of Durham
- Providing honest, accurate, timely and complete information

Ethical Conduct Expected

- Following City and department policies, procedures and rules
- Reporting improper conduct
- Keeping co-workers safe from retaliation of any kind
- Identifying problems and helping to create solutions
- Abstaining from decisions that could result in a direct benefit to the employees, a relative or co-habitant

Scenario

What do you think?



City of Durham's Code of Ethics

(City of Durham, City Clerk Website)

- Impartiality (fair treatment)
- Confidentiality and Disclosure
- Use of Public Property
- Gifts or Favors
- Legal Considerations
- Conflict of Interest
 - Financial Interest
 - Employment

Ethics Policy Issues or Concerns

The Ethics Policy addresses concerns that employees may be confronted with and provides guidelines for appropriate conduct or behavior.

- Outside Employment
- Conflict of Interest
- Nepotism
- Political Activities
- Whistleblower Protection
- Contracting with the City
- Disclosure of Confidential Information

Scenario

What do you think?



Ethics Procedures

- Where to seek advice
 - Follow the chain of command in your department
- What to do if you are uncertain
 - If in doubt, <u>DON'T</u>
- How to declare a possible conflict
 - Complete "Conflict of Interest Declaration" Form and send to the Audit Services Department
 - Complete "Outside Employment Disclosure" Form and forward to your supervisor to be retained in the department

Ethics Procedures

Where to report improper behavior

- Complete the <u>FWA</u> Form located at http://durham-intranet/applications/audit/fraud_form.cfm
- Call the <u>Fraud/Waste/Abuse Hotline</u> at 919-560-4213, Extension 3
- Stop by Suite 1700, 1st Floor of City Hall and speak with the Fraud Examiner
- Send a letter to the City Manager or to the Mayor

Violations of the Code of Ethics

 Variety of penalties: reprimand, removal from position, and/or termination and criminal

Key Expectations for All Employees on Ethics Policy

- Read and understand Ethics Policy
- Follow appropriate ethical behaviors
- Seek guidance in resolving ethical issues or concerns
- Report conduct which may violate Ethics Policy

Supervisor's Responsibility for Policy Compliance

- Monitoring and ensuring compliance with the Ethics Policy, employment policies and the City's Operating Principles
- Setting an example of exemplary ethical conduct
- Dealing effectively with ethics concerns that arise in your area
- Prohibiting retribution or retaliation against any employee who reports or supplies information about, or assists an investigation into an ethics concern

The Ethics Acid -Test

- Who will be affected by my decision?
- Is the decision legal and fair?
- Would I tell my child to do this?
- What if I get caught?
- How will this decision make me feel about myself?
- How would I feel if I had to explain this publicly?

... If in doubt, DON'T.





The Right Thing

To "do the right thing" begins with thinking rightly...in other words, thinking ethically...

Solomon and Hanson